

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the driver is coupled to the frame by support of the back plate.

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the enhancer has a shape that is at least one of frustoconical shape, parabolic shape or ~~and~~ bell shape.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the thickness of the speaker, including the frame and the back plate, is less than about 30mm.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the membrane has a section spanning across a space defined by the frame, wherein the section is homogeneous in thickness and material.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the membrane is made of a flexible and substantially non-elastic material.

Claim 7 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 6 wherein the membrane is uniformly tensioned to about 5 to 30 pounds.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 +, wherein the membrane is maintained taut under tension in its plane.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the membrane is made of at least one of:

Kapton material;

Teonex material;

a polyimide material; or and

a metal foil material.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein small holes are provided on the membrane at locations near the frame.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the membrane has a thickness such that the membrane that is attached to the frame is flexible and durable to endure vibrational forces of the driver without appreciable stretching.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein magnetic oil is used in the driver to dampen resonance arising from the membrane.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the aspect ratio of diameter of the mouth to thickness of the enhancer measured from the neck to the mouth ranges from about 3:1 to 20:1.

Claim 14 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 13 wherein the aspect ratio of diameter of the mouth to thickness of the enhancer measured from the neck to the mouth ranges from about 8:1 to 13:1.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the ratio of diameter of the neck to diameter of the mouth of the enhancer ranges from about 3:5 to 3:4.

Claim 16 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 2 wherein the back plate has a recess, wherein the driver is received in the recess in the back plate.

Claim 17 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 16 wherein the recess is off-center with respect to the frame.

Claim 18 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 2 wherein the back plate has a recess that receives a yoke in which a magnet and a voice coil is disposed.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 27 + wherein apertures are provided in the back plate.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): A loudspeaker, comprising:

- a back plate comprising a screen having apertures;
- a frame coupled to the back plate;
- a driver coupled to the frame, the driver being responsive to an electrical signal;
- an enhancer having a neck and a mouth, the neck being coupled to the driver, the enhancer being movable in accordance with the movement of the driver; and
- a membrane coupled to the mouth of the enhancer, the membrane supported and maintained taut by the frame.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + wherein the enhancer is made of a fiber-reinforced paper composite.

Claim 22 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 21 wherein about 20% to 30% of the enhancer is made of Kevlar material.

Claim 23 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 22 wherein the membrane is adhered to at least one of the enhancer and the frame by using a rubber type adhesive that is capable of dampening resonance.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 + further comprising a clamp, wherein the membrane is secured in between the clamp and the frame.

Claim 25 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 24 wherein the clamp has an inner textured surface.

Claim 26 (Original): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 24 wherein the clamp is made of an elastic material.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A loudspeaker, comprising:

- a back plate;
- a frame coupled to the back plate;
- a driver coupled to the frame, the driver being responsive to an electrical signal;
- an enhancer having a neck and a mouth, the neck being coupled to the driver, the enhancer being movable in accordance with the movement of the driver;
- a clamp; and
- a membrane coupled to the mouth of the enhancer and secured in between the clamp and the frame, the membrane supported and maintained taut by the frame and clamp;

wherein the frame has a tapered outer surface, wherein the clamp has an inner surface that corresponds to the tapered outer surface of the frame, whereby when the clamp is applied to the frame, the membrane is tightly secured between the frame and the clamp.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): The loudspeaker in accordance with claim 20 † wherein the membrane has a hole and the membrane is coupled to the enhancer such that the hole corresponds in size and location with the mouth of the enhancer.